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REVIEW OF ARRANGEMENTS FOR
CONSULTATIONS WITH NON-GOVERNMENTAL
ORGANIZATIONS
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GENERAL REVIEW OF ARRANGEMENTS FOR CONSULTATIONS WITH NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Statement submitted by the International Council of Jewish Women, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, category II

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 23 and 24 of the Economic and Social Council resolution 1296 (XLIV) of 23 May 1968.

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1. The International Council of Jewish Women (ICJW), a non-governmental organization, was granted category II consultative status with the Economic and Social Council in 1964. To fulfil its responsibilities, ICJW appoints official representatives and alternates to serve in New York, Geneva, Vienna and Paris and to attend regular sessions of the General Assembly, the Council and its various commissions, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). The ICJW representatives work in cooperation with other international and national organizations engaged in United Nations activities. On the basis of ICJW consultative status, they participate directly in the work of the above-mentioned United Nations bodies, submitting written statements in the name of ICJW and meeting with Secretariat staff members. Regular reports as well as directives are sent to the ICJW affiliates to enable them to carry out their

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United Nations-related programmes which are within the purview of ICJW. There is also a flow of information from the affiliates to the United Nations through the ICJW representatives.

2. Resolutions of ICJW are concerned with such national affairs as education, health and welfare, ethical guidelines for medical research, environment and habitat, the status of women, and youth and successor generations, as well as with such world affairs as peace in the Middle East, the United Nations and human rights, the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, disarmament, UNICEF, racism, racial discrimination and intolerance. Topical statements are issued regularly relating to some or all of the aforementioned subjects.

3. NGO representatives attend regional meetings of the Economic and Social Council and make their views known to Member States. ICJW is aware of the increasing number of newly independent States (e.g. the former Soviet Republics) and is establishing contacts with new affiliates there. ICJW is also represented in parts of the South and the developing world (South Africa, Zimbabwe and seven countries of Latin America) and is strengthening relationships between North and South through very open communication and help with local issues and concerns.

4. Economic and Social Council resolution 1296 (XLIV) has provided for the Council to secure expert information or advice from organizations having specific competence and enabling these organizations to express their views in these fields of activity. ICJW places great emphasis on combating racial intolerance and other gross violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms. ICJW believes it should continue to have the right to express its views orally and to circulate written statements in its areas of expertise. It further believes that its representatives should continue to sit at public meetings of the Council without having to reiterate its status for every meeting it attends. Rules governing United Nations conferences should be standardized and not subject to change at every venue. NGOs should not be denied the right to talk to delegates or to gather United Nations documents when United Nations meetings take place. NGOs have lost their resource centre in the Secretariat, and as a consequence often find they miss important meetings because there is no central bulletin board for notices. NGOs can no longer bring guests into the United Nations building, even though the guests may be visiting experts or VIPs. There is also talk of eliminating all NGO meetings at Headquarters.

5. It is for these reasons that ICJW believes the consultative status of NGOs is being jeopardized and calls for improvement in the situation as soon as possible.